



Charles D. Baker, Governor  
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor  
Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT Secretary & CEO  
Astrid Glynn, MassDOT Rail & Transit Administrator



To: MassDOT Board

From: Astrid Glynn, Rail and Transit Administrator

Re: Recent Activities

Date: October 2019

### **Transit:**

*RTA Discretionary Grants:* To implement the FY20 budget, MassDOT solicited discretionary projects from the RTAs. The legislature made \$3.5m available for projects that offer improvements and innovation consistent with the recommendations of the RTA Task Force. Thirteen of the 15 RTAs submitted projects; 7 of the RTAs submitted more than one application. None chose to collaborate with another RTA on a joint application. The total amount requested was \$6,232,543.16. The requests are currently being reviewed and scored.

*Workforce Transportation:* MassDOT received 34 applications, seeking \$6,462,720 in funds and pledging \$2,662,440 as match. Contributing partners included several employers and municipalities. The Governor's Supplemental Budget bill filing included additional funding for this program, however it was not included in either of the House or the Senate version. MassDOT is currently reviewing options and evaluating the applications' eligibility for the \$1.5 in Federal CMAQ funds that MassDOT had originally programmed to increase workforce transportation options.

*FTA Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Implementation:* In July FTA published the Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) Final Rule, which requires certain operators of public transportation systems that receive federal funds under FTA's Urbanized Area Formula Grants to develop safety plans that include the processes and procedures to implement Safety Management Systems (SMS). Safety Plans must be in place by July 20, 2020. States are directed to develop plans for transit operators which are direct recipients of 5307 funds but operate fewer than 100 vehicles in a single mode in peak service. The larger operators must develop their own plans. Operators that would be covered by the State plan can opt out and develop their own plans. MassDOT secured the services of a consultant to assist RTAs that chose to work with MassDOT on a PTASP. Of the RTAs that are affected by the rule and are not required to write their own plans because of their size, 7 have opted to receive the assistance from MassDOT. Two have opted out.

*Fully Accessible Vehicle Procurement:* The Massachusetts Department of Transportation (“MassDOT”) Rail and Transit Division, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (“MBTA”), developed plans to procure six (6) types of fully accessible body-on-chassis vans and minibuses. MassDOT is procuring the vehicles for use in conjunction with the Federal Transit Administration’s (“FTA”) Section 5310 program. The MBTA plans to procure vehicles for the RIDE. The Request for Responses was released on March 11, 2019; responses were due May 17, 2019. Seven bidders responded; 4 were recommended for awards. Both vans and minibuses will be available to MassDOT grantees and alternative fuel options will be offered through this procurement.

## **Rail**

*Capital Projects:* Several capital projects in the CIP are moving ahead. On the Berkshire line we are replacing 45,000 ties, replacing 3 bridges, repairing 3 other bridges, and undertaking preliminary work in preparation for replacing 6 miles of continuously welded rail in FY21. On the Knowledge Corridor we have started replacing old ties in the Deerfield Yard. On the Ware Secondary we have secured bids for a slope stabilization project. On the Cape Main, the Cohasset Narrows Bridge is substantially complete. On the Southeast lines, 6 grade crossings were put out to bid.

*Valley Flyer:* The Valley Flyer is operating. A celebration of the service was held in Springfield on October 5 with remarks by Governor Baker, Congressman Neal, and Mayor Sarno. MassDOT is having monthly calls with local officials and tracking the service’s performance and ridership with Amtrak. The Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission have received \$350,000 for marketing and will be leading a marketing effort that will be coordinated with Amtrak.